

2007 MAR -7 PM 3:30

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In Re: Pilot Program for Alternative Dispute
Resolution

ORDER

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 1998 (the "Act") requires that each district court "authorize . . . the use of alternative dispute resolution processes in all civil actions," 28 U.S.C. § 651(b), and "adopt such improvements to [an existing] program as are consistent with the provisions and purposes of [the Act], *Id.* at § 651(c).

By Order dated August 22, 2005, the Judges of this Court concluded that mediation may most effectively "encourage and promote the use of alternative dispute resolution in [this] district," 28 U.S.C. § 651(b), and authorized the implementation of a pilot mediation program for calendar year 2006 in accordance with a Plan for Alternative Dispute Resolution in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York (the "Plan").

Having reviewed and considered the pilot program's effectiveness, its statistics to date, and its favorable reception by litigants and the bar, the Judges of this Court agree that the pilot mediation program shall continue through the 2007 calendar year in the Western Division of the Western District of New York. District Judge William M. Skretny shall continue to implement, administer, oversee and evaluate the pilot program. During 2007, the Plan's provisions shall apply to all new and pending cases assigned to Chief Judge Richard J. Arcara and Judge William M. Skretny. All other Judges, at their discretion, may refer

cases for mediations under the Plan.

SO ORDERED.

Buffalo and Rochester, New York

Dated: December 31, 2006

/s/ Richard J. Arcara
Chief United States District Judge

/s/ David G. Larimer
United States District Judge

/s/ William M. Skretny
United States District Judge

/s/ Charles J. Siragusa
United States District Judge

/s/ John T. Curtin
Senior United States District Judge

/s/ John T. Elfvin
Senior United States District Judge

/s/ Michael A. Telesca
Senior United States District Judge